



# Republican Policy Committee

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## Republicans: Fighting for America's Agenda

### Lower Taxes, Less Government, More and Better Jobs

During President Clinton's tenure, taxes have been higher and family median income has stagnated. Parents are having to work harder and in some cases hold down two jobs just to stay ahead.

- *More than one-third of the average American worker's wages go to pay taxes.* This year, taxpayers had to work until May 7—the latest day ever for “Tax Freedom Day”—to pay their taxes and begin working for themselves.
- President Clinton's 1993 tax increase — the largest tax increase in history — has resulted in slower growth and has *cost Americans \$227 a month* in lost earnings.
- *Real after-tax income is only one-half the growth rate* (that is, 1.6 percent compared to 3.2 percent) of the decade prior to Clinton's term.

Republicans in Congress are fighting for lower taxes and less government, so that working Americans can earn more, keep more of what they earn, and spend more time with their families.

- Republicans kept their promises and *passed a \$245 billion pro-family, pro-growth tax relief package* — unlike President Clinton who promised Americans a middle-class tax cut, but gave them the largest tax increase in history.

Republicans are fighting for a balanced budget amendment that will put an end to wasteful Washington spending.

- *Working Americans would have \$2,000 more per year in their pockets* from lower interest rates had Clinton not vetoed the first balanced budget in 26 years.

## **Stronger, Safer Families by Fighting Illegal Drugs and Violent Crime**

**President Clinton has surrendered the war on drugs.** He has slashed drug interdiction efforts, weakened enforcement, appointed lenient liberal judges and even gone so far as to joke about marijuana use on MTV. The trend toward declining illegal drug use among our youths that lasted 11 years under Republican presidents turned upward over the last three years of Clinton's presidency.

- ***Marijuana use among 14-15 year olds has risen*** by a staggering 200 percent; and use was up 137 percent among 12-13 year olds.
- Under President Clinton, ***federal enforcement and drug trafficking efforts have been stymied*** and federal prosecutions declined 12 percent in two years, while the transit zone "disruption rate"— which measures the ability of the United States to seize or otherwise turn back drug shipments — dropped by 53 percent.
- President Clinton has used his four years in office to replace the successful "Just Say No" campaign with a "Just Say Nothing" (or "just say something dumb") approach. As a result: ***youthful drug use is up sharply; hard-core drug use is on the rise; and the availability of drugs is up.***

**Republicans support a strong, consistent and effective drug strategy that calls for devoting more resources to:** stop the enemies' attack by protecting our borders; eradicate the enemies' base through cooperative international efforts; make criminals pay the price through effective law enforcement; educate teenagers to avoid drug use through a consistent, clear anti-drug message; and find effective treatment policies.

**Republicans have fought for personal security for our children and our families.** They know the real cause of crime — criminals. They will fight it through effective mandatory minimum sentences that make criminals accountable for their actions; truth in sentencing to halt the "revolving door" that makes innocent Americans prisoners in their own communities; and through assuring victim restitution.

## **Common-Sense Welfare Reform To Require Work**

**Clinton twice reneged on his campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it"** by vetoing not one, but two, welfare reform bills.

- In the last three decades aggregate ***government spending on welfare programs has surpassed \$5.4 trillion*** (in constant 1993 dollars). Despite this spending, the number of children in poverty has risen steadily. In 1965, when the "War On Poverty" was launched, there were 3.3 million children on welfare; by 1993 the number of children on welfare skyrocketed to 9.6 million, even though the overall child population had actually declined by 5.5 percent during that period.

**Republicans have been working to achieve common-sense welfare reform** so that welfare does not trap families in despair and become a way of life for yet another generation of young women and their children.

- This bill gives us reason to hope that we can positively change the lives of many young Americans by encouraging them to seize, for themselves and for their children, the opportunities our nation offers them.

**Republicans three times now have passed real welfare reform** that provides real work requirements, ends welfare as a way of life, ends welfare for noncitizens and felons, requires personal responsibility, and moves money and power back to states and communities.

### **Stem Illegal Immigration**

**Under Clinton, spending on benefits for illegal immigrants rose 12.7 percent** while wages for typical American workers grew by an anemic 1.6 percent.

- Some 4.5 million illegal aliens live in the United States today. More than 300,000 aliens enter the country illegally every year.
- In 1996, taxpayers will *spend \$26 billion to provide welfare benefits to noncitizens*. The number of noncitizens receiving SSI benefits has skyrocketed 825 percent over the last 15 years.

**Republicans want to encourage individuals who come to the United States legally to become productive citizens** who reinforce our American heritage. We believe that the American Dream should be shared through opportunities — not Government handouts.

### **Restore Honesty and Integrity to the White House**

**The constant stream of scandal and ethical lapses in the Clinton Administration have undermined pride and confidence in the presidency** at home and the stature of the office abroad. Whether it is incompetence or corruption, it is unacceptable.

- The American people expect their elected leaders to tell the truth, obey the laws, and respect the integrity of the highest office in the land. But *honesty and candor have been a major casualty of the Clinton White House*.

**By shining a bright light on the Administration's actions, Republicans are fighting to restore honesty and integrity to the White House.**

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